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IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

So long as the Dominion possesses abundant opportunities for immigrants to establish comfortable homes there can be no fear regarding their future. Till our agricultural development into loyal and law abiding areas are all occupied or made comfortably non-existent, but laws, as in Britain, every new arrival possesses of health, strength and determination to succeed will respond to his environment and conform to the type of citizenship which our conditions have established. Quality among immigrants is the most important factor, and in this regard it is gratifying to learn that Britain is furnishing the largest and most rapidly increasing element in the tide of humanity now settling toward the Dominion. During the year ending with March last we received 55,791 immigrants from Britain, 32,146 from continental Europe. The gain compared with the previous year was 16,170 in Britain and 19,001 in continental Europe. This is a favorable showing, and is more satisfactory than the immigration records of the United States, a comparison quite proper and relevant. While the Dominion is at attractive, best, or at least fair average, classes from Europe, and can offer opportunities for the improvement of their conditions, their transformation into citizens with modern western ideals is fully secured. We need have no fear of the problem of assimilation, so long as the immigrants find initially better conditions than they have been inured to elsewhere.

Continuous complaints about the farm labor problem show that our capacity for absorption is by no means exhausted or even approached. These complaints are in one sense a hopeful sign, as they show that men are able to become their own employers and are not forced to work for wages. While there is a farm for every man no one will work for another except for a temporary expedient. If there is but one farm for two intending settlers, one must work for the other, and the farm labor problem in their case is solved. While there is a farm for each, and also for every new arrival, there must be a security and even an absolute dearth of farm labor. But it is on the whole better that, say a thousand men should work and own their own farms, even at considerable inconvenience, than that half their number should have no alternative except to work for the others. Where the available homesteads are all taken up and the later arrivals seek the farm labor problem it will be time to question the wisdom of an open-door policy, but that condition is not within the foreseeable future. The number who can profitably be absorbed is not unlimited, yet we need not give thought at the present time to the possible results of over-crowding.

THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

(English Standard).
The presence in the city of Lieutenant Bylesen to recall settlers that have percolated through from Edmonton of the interest he has acquired from the federal authorities, in the trade of coal having lands. In this, says the report, some of the Alberta ministers are interested.

We would rather like to suppose the report unfounded or at least open to a different construction, and have no intention of endorsing it. But whether it is true or not makes little difference to the principal issue, which is nothing less than the advisability of the control of our public domain reserved in the hands of the federal government, or the federal "machine," wherever you like to put it. It is the policy of the federal government, during the last years of the Balfour administration, the department of the interior because the happy hunting ground for his political "friends" and for his business relations. Many of these, obscure politicians, are now wealthy men, and their wealth has been acquired at the expense of the people of these western provinces.

Fortunately there is still an enormous tract of valuable land open for settlement, which so far has escaped the rapacity of the Ottawa land sharks. They cannot gobble it all in 10, 20, or 30 years.

But in regard to timber limits and coal measures it is an altogether different matter. Timber is scarce enough in most parts of the country, and what there is left to the north should be carefully preserved in the public interest. But it will never be preserved by the extravagant administration at Ottawa, with so many political opponents to provide for, so many political whims to nourish. The control of the timber should be in the hands of the provincial government, which at least realizes the necessity of the lumber problem in this country and which, however much ridden, might be relied upon to resist or yield a necessity.

What is true of the timber is likewise true of our coal mines. The coal output in this western country is at the present time in control of half a dozen powerful close corporations who are in a position to dictate to transportation companies, dealers and the general public. Already these coal barons are building the St. Lawrence, or under the shadow of parliament hill. They are not a monopoly as the lumbermen themselves, only so far they have escaped the inquisitive probe of public indignation.

Like all monopolies they are desirous of stifling free competition and keeping the market to themselves.

CHRY FOIL WIVES IN CANADA.

A cry for wives comes to the province of Quebec from the French-Canadian settlement in the Canadian northwest territory, says a Montreal dispatch to the New York Sun. A Roman Catholic clergyman in Alberta is contemplating trying a scheme suggested to him by the consular authorities of his parish for supplying them with wives.

Women, except squaws, are scarce in the Canadian territories and there is an absolute absence of young and eligible women of the same race and religion as the struggling settlers who have gone out here from the French provinces of the province of Quebec. The priests are anxious to see them married to wives of their own nationality and faith, so as to encourage the growth in the northwest of a French-speaking and Roman Catholic population. Judging from the wonderful number of immigrants of French-Canadian nation in the province of Quebec, the supply of wives and mothers to the northwest settlers is all that is necessary for the early establishment of an equally populous settlement on an equally populous basis.

The northwest settlers are only too anxious to fall in with the desire of their priests in the matter of marriage. The lack of women of the same race in the northwest territories cannot be obtained by any efforts of their own. They cannot afford the time, even if they could spare the money, to pay a visit to the province of Quebec to select wives for themselves.

Those who are prepared to do so to a certain extent by proxy. Provided sufficiently large settlements in the northwest territory are secured, the priests have little chance for selection, they are prepared to acquire their priests to do the rest. The scheme has been discussed in the French-Canadian press, and the first party of candidates for matrimony will probably leave for Calgary in a few days.

The apparent novelty of the scheme has drawn down upon it a large amount of ridicule. Those who are encouraging it argue that it not only does not favor of any impropriety but also that not even the charge of immorality can be brought against it. They say that it is a "little thing" to be followed. In France, for instance, wives to the earliest French settlers in Canada.

Under the fostering care of Colbert-Louis XIV's great minister of finance and of the colonial affairs were taken from the houses of refuge of Paris and Lyons and sent out to Canada as prospective wives for the settlers. Mother Marie de l'Incarnation wrote in 1665 that 100 had come that summer and were nearly all provided with husbands, and that 200 more were to come the following year. In 1672 Count Frontenac, the governor of Canada, wrote home to Paris complaining of the scarcity of the supply of young women sent out from France.

"If 150 girls and as many servants," he said, "had been sent out this year they would have found husbands and masters within a month." After some of the young women had been married at Quebec it was found that they had husbands at home. The priests became restless in trying the matrimonial knot, and Colbert thereupon ordered that each girl should provide herself with a certificate from the mayor or magistrate of her parish to the effect that she was free to marry.

It is expected that the same qualification will be required of all who are to be taken to the Canadian northwest under colonial auspices. Instead of exhibiting them for hands of settlement of the colony as adopted at Quebec two and a quarter centuries ago, these new candidates for matrimony will be encouraged by their conductors to accept names as domestic servants until sought out for wives by their future husbands.

Considering the load call for wives in the northwest of Canada, the new arrivals will not have long to wait. Nor will it be necessary to entice or to drive the bachelor settlers into wedlock, as was the case with some of the frontiersmen in Quebec in the middle of the seventeenth century—Washington Herald.

Blackfalds Crop Prospect

Blackfalds, July 10.—Throughout all this district the crops have a splendid showing and farmers are optimistic that an extra good harvest will be reaped. The new weather of the week following upon the copious showers of the few days previous has brought on the growth rapidly. It could be impossible to turn out a better distribution of rain or sunshine than this section of the province has been favored with.

An elevator is greatly needed in Blackfalds to handle the farm produce. There are also good openings in Blackfalds for industries to be operated by electric power from the plant now being installed at Blindman River two miles from Blackfalds. Electric lights will be installed in the town. The Public Hall for the town is being finished, other buildings are progressing rapidly. The Blackfalds train is nearing completion.

Lament Notes.

There are all too many fine around here, the beautiful rain and sunning having done their work. The farmers expect a good crop this year. "Jack Frost" does not make his appearance in August. The hay crop will also be good. Mrs. Matilda has potatoes in blossom. We have had no wetness to bother the crops and gardens this year. The cattle and horses are all fat now, and luxuriant grass covers the prairie.

We took a run up to Edmonton on the 1st, and found that the only word that would suit the growth of the capital city is "wonderful." It truly is wonderful to walk around and note the buildings, the streets, etc. What an amount of money must have been spent in Edmonton lately, and also in Strathcona. We saw a camp enroute in Calgary just a little west of Strathcona, and there was no Strathcona, and Edmonton consisted of about a dozen houses on the top of the hill.

We consider the spot where the Edmonton fair is held is not suitable. It might be all right for April or October, but it is too low and hot for July. The crowd was immense, and the heat slow we had was sitting in front of one of the hotels and watching the crowds go by. A decent and respectable crowd it was, but still we did not notice any distinguished men moving around; they were mostly mechanics. Such men have not got as far west as yet, but no doubt the day is coming for such manifestations.

The streets of Edmonton at present are hard on the feet and the sidewalks are very hot and hard. The need of street cars was evident.

We wonder what all the people living in the city will do when winter comes. There are about 1000 in tents at present, a real estate man says, and it looks as though his statement is correct.

We are glad to get back to the green prairie, where all is fresh and fair. There is no rush and crush as in the city.

Compulsory Arbitration Failed in Australia

Toronto, July 10.—Secretary Murray, of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, has received a letter from Melbourne, Australia, containing information that compulsory arbitration which for the last three years had been applied to labor disputes, has been found to be a total failure. The premier announced his intention of asking parliament to repeal the act, and appoint a wage commissioner, which will be relative to the same as the "fair wages of workers" in Canada. The letter states also that where disputes arose between employers and employees the government had no machinery to enforce its findings when the decision was against the workmen. With the employer it was different, one man or one company was found to be a villain, proposition to workers in all branches of a trade. This is an admission that the government to make a move.

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